

# **From The Editor**

## **REDUCING THE RISK**

Soldiering can be a dangerous business, and each MOS carries its own risks; infantrymen, logisticians, artillerymen, NBC specialists, aviators, tankers, medical personnel, engineers, and all of the other members of the U.S. Army must learn to recognize and deal with the risks of their profession. Teaching our soldiers about safety is the responsibility of trainers, leaders, and peers, and not just when the subject bobs up on the training schedule or after an accident, but every time the opportunity presents itself.

In preparation for an upcoming piece on firearms accidents, I've come across some figures; for example, in the last 8 months, the United States Army has experienced 19 accidental shootings, which resulted in the deaths of four soldiers or family members and serious injury to the remainder. Ten of the shootings were with handguns and were attributed to alcohol or fooling around with the weapon.

Firearms are the tools of our trade, and unless we understand that they are not toys, that we can never assume they are unloaded, and that we only point a weapon at something—or somebody—we really intend to shoot, we will continue to face the reality of young lives ended, families destroyed, and careers abruptly terminated.

Firearms safety is not just another requirement; it is an imperative that demands our attention. The issue is not gun ownership; it is responsible gun handling. And it is something that can only be taught and reinforced by trainers, leaders, and peers.

**RAE**

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